Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2003-04) relating to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation); and

Fiftieth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/ Observations contained in the Forty-Fourth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2003-04) relating to Ministry of Water Resources.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that I received a letter from Shri Aimaduddin Ahmad Khan (Durru), a Member representing the State of Rajasthan, resigning his seat in the Rajya Sabha. I have accepted his resignation with effect from 18th December, 2003.

I have also to inform Members that I received a letter from Shri Munavvar Hasan, a Member representing the State of Uttar Pradesh, resigning his seat in the Rajya Sabha. I have accepted his resignation with effect from 27th January, 2004.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that the Government business during the week commencing Tuesday, the 3rd February, 2004, will consist of :-

1. Laying of the Interim General Budget for 2004-05 at 12.30 p.m. on 3rd February, 2004.
2. General Discussion on Interim Railway Budget for 2004-05 on 3rd February, 2004.
3. Consideration and adoption of amendments to be made by the Lok Sabha in the following Bills, as passed by the Rajya Sabha.
4. The Foreigners (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

5. The Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2003.

6. The British Statutes (Repeal) Bill, 2003.

7. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills relating to the following Demands, after they have been passed by the Lok Sabha, on 4th February, 2004.

(a) Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2004-2005.

(b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2003-2004.

(c) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2001-2002.

(d) General Discussion on Interim General Budget for 2004-2005 on 4th February, 2004.

(e) Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills relating to the following Demands, after they have been passed by the Lok Sabha, on 5th February, 2004:-

(i) Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2004-2005.

(ii) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2003-2004.

(f) Consideration and return of the Finance Bill, 2004, after it has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 5th February, 2004.

MATTER RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Extension of the Winter Session of Parliament after its adjournment *sine die* on 23rd December, 2003

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government to a matter which has been agitating our mind.

Sir, the Winter Session of Parliament began on 2nd December, after being summoned by the President of the Republic under article 85 clause (1). On 23rd December, the House was adjourned *sine die* by the hon. Chairman of the House. And we have been asked, under your orders in Bulletin No. 4167, dated 21st January, to assemble on 30th January. In between, we are hearing that the Lok Sabha is going to be dissolved; Vote on Account is to be approved by the Lok Sabha; there will be a premature termination of the Lok Sabha and the General Elections will take place. I